

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6680

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 4217

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CU, ES, OAS

SUBJ: CUBA SANCTIONS - THE ROAD TO QUITO

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ME OCTOBER 21, FONMIN BORGONOVO RAISED SUBJECT OF CUBA REFERRING TO PRESS REPORT ALLEGING PRES FORD HAD STATED PUBLICLY THAT USGOV WOULD VOTE AGAINST LIFTING SANCTIONS.

2. I INFORMED HIM THAT THIS REPORT WAS NOT ACCURATE SINCE TO BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE USGOV HAD NOT YET DECIDED ITS POSITION ON CUBAN SANCTIONS, AND WOULD DO SO ONLY AFTER IT COMPLETES ITS CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OAS MEMBERS PRIOR TO QUITO MFM.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION CURRENT GOES THINKING ON THE MATTER, BORGONOVO STATED HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT THERE WAS NO REASON TO CHANGE ANNOUNCED GOES POSITION FAVORING LIFTING OF SANCTIONS. HE SAID RECENT CHILEAN CHARGE OF CUBAN SUBVERSIVE INTERVENTION WAS NOT CONVINCING SINCE IT WAS BASED ENTIRELY ON DEVELOPMENTS DURING ALLENDE REGIME WHICH HAD INVITED THE CUBANS INTO CHILE AND HAD FREELY ACCEPTED THEIR PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES. HE WAS NOT ACQUAINTED WITH DETAILS OF URUGUAYAN CHARGES AGAINST CUBA. AFTER EXAMINING LOCAL INTELLIGENCE REPORTS SINCE 1966, HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THEY DID NOT RPT NOT REVEAL ANY EVIDENCE OF DIRECT CUBAN INTERVENTION IN EL SALVADOR AND, HENCE, DID NOT SUSTAIN RETENTION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA. HE ALSO ARGUED THAT USGOV WOULD FIND IT ADVANTAGEOUS

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TO HAVE SANCTIONS LIFTED SO THAT IT COULD REESTABLISH

RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND BENEFIT FROM MAINTAINING A DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN HABANA.

4. ON THIS SCORE, HE ENDED ON THE NOTE THAT, WHILE HE FAVORED LIFTING SANCTIONS, HE WAS MAINTAINING AN OPEN MIND AND WAS WILLING TO HAVE US CONVINCE HIM BY CREDIBLE EVIDENCE THAT CUBA CONTINUED TO INTERVENE DIRECTLY AND SUBVERSIVELY IN THE AFFAIRS OF ITS NEIGHBORS, OR ANY OTHER ARGUMENT WE WISH TO PRESENT INDICATING THAT IT WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST TO HAVE SANCTIONS SUSTAINED.

5. FINALLY, HE RECOGNIZED AND ACCEPTED THAT THERE WERE LEGITIMATE REASONS WHY SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND QUITO MFM; BUT THOUGHT, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE LATIN AMERICAN TEMPERAMENT WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT HIS ABSENCE.
CAMPBELL

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